

Roxbury, July 11, 1878.

My dear Wendell:

In the course of a day or two, there will be sent by express, to your address at Sewall's Park, Miss Whitney's bust of your "venerable" father, which I wish you to accept substantially for the same reason that John Rogers, the martyr, wished his wife and nine or ten children to accept a token of his love, as follows - according to the New England Primer:

"I leave you here a little book,
For you to look upon,
That you may see your father's face
When he is dead and gone."

With this difference, however: that his face was no doubt coarsely and imperfectly engraved, while mine (on a bust) is

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voted unanimously to be a remarkable "counterfeit presentment" by all who see it. As I expect to leave here on Saturday to spend a fortnight with Fanny, and the children at Tarrytown, I shall have an opportunity to confer with you as to a pedestal for the same.

Before the winter sets in, Miss Whitney expects to receive the marble copy of the bust, by Powers, from Italy. The "heated term" appears now to have ended, and to-day the mercury is considerate enough to rise no higher than 80. For some ten or twelve days it has ranged from 90 to 100. I do not recollect such protracted continuity of melting weather "in all my born days," and it has made me feel as limp as a wet rag, and as worthless as a wilted cabbage leaf. But my health, on the whole, is improving, nevertheless.

I meant, long ere this, to have returned special thanks for the "Boston Melodeon," which was so ingeniously smuggled with something else, and gracefully yield as becometh a good non-resistant. I shall "tune up" very frequently, in consequence of it, be assured, as I consider it the best selection of standard song music that has yet been made.

We are all glad to hear of the pleasant time you had at Philadelphia, Roadside, &c. I hope you will yet be able to get a much longer vacation before the summer is ended.

William and Ellen, and their children, enjoy Osterville greatly. Your presence will add ^{vastly} ~~greatly~~ to their pleasure. Affectionate regards to Mrs. McKim, and Lloyd, Phil, and the Queen.

Your loving Father.

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